



THE POWER OF



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A Newsletter For Kentucky Transportation Cabinet District 10 Employees

Two Lee County KYTC employees honored for flood rescue effort

Two Lee County maintenance employees were honored on June 14 for their heroic efforts to rescue a motorist trapped by floodwaters on April 30.

On behalf of Gov. Ernie Fletcher and acting Transportation Secretary Bill Nighbert, Highway Commissioner Marc D. Williams presented Kentucky Colonel commissions to Drexel Creech and Aaron Gay in a brief ceremony at the Lee County maintenance garage.

"We continue to be proud of the actions of these two fine employees in rescuing a stranded motorist," Williams said. "These two men embody the philosophy of the Transportation Cabinet to provide a safe and efficient transportation system for the benefit of all Kentuckians. These Kentucky Colonel citations are just one small way to honor them for their bravery."

In the predawn hours on Saturday morning, April 30, Creech and Gay rescued an Owsley County resident who had driven into floodwaters on KY 52 at Sandfield in western Lee County. The driver was on his way to a Richmond hospital for kidney dialysis treatment. The motorist's vehicle stalled, and he eventually climbed to the top of his car to escape the flood. Creech and Gay were in the area responding to the flooding situation when they discovered the stranded driver. Creech drove a dump truck into the flooded area, and Gay helped the motorist from the roof of the car to the truck. The motorist was eventually transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Creech is a superintendent I with the Lee County



From left: Linda Wagner-Justice, Aaron Gay, Drexel Creech and Commissioner Marc Williams.

maintenance crew, and Gay is an equipment operator II.

"Part of our goal to provide a safe and reliable transportation system is the dedication of our state employees to their fellow Kentuckians," Secretary Nighbert said. "The bravery of these two employees to put themselves at risk to rescue a stranded motorist from a

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flood is very much appreciated and we at the Transportation Cabinet salute them and applaud their unselfish act. I am proud of Mr. Creech and Mr. Gay and congratulate them.”

Linda Wagner-Justice, chief district engineer for District 10, which includes Lee County, also praised the actions of the two men.

“Our employees routinely put themselves at risk, because highway maintenance is by its very nature dangerous work,” Wagner-Justice said. “The actions of Drexel Creech and Aaron Gay were above and beyond the call of duty. They acted at significant risk to themselves to rescue a fellow citizen. We are very proud of them, and grateful to them for their actions. They quite likely saved a life by their efforts, without thought to the risks they were taking.”

The Kentucky Colonel commission is the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Commissions are presented by the governor or the secretary of state in recognition of noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service to a community, state or the nation. This tradition began in

1813 during the second term of Gov. Isaac Shelby. In 1928, an effort began to organize the Colonels into “A great non-political brotherhood for the advancement of Kentucky and Kentuckians.” In 1932, The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels was formally born. Today, the organization is incorporated as a charitable organization with by-laws directing it to be non-partisan, non-profit and dedicated to good works within the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Linda Wagner-Justice talked with Beattyville Mayor Charles Beach III during the ceremony.



Commissioner Williams with Regina Crawford, deputy director of the LINK Cumberland Region office.



Channel 18, WLEX-TV from Lexington, attended the ceremony. The rescue drew statewide press coverage, including a column by Byron Crawford in *The Courier-Journal*.

Keeping on keeping on...

Undeterred from its mission, Transportation Cabinet continues work to improve state's roads

In keeping with the vision of Gov. Ernie Fletcher to provide a safe and reliable transportation system for all Kentuckians, the Transportation Cabinet continues to make improvements to the state's roadways.

For example in June, bids were awarded on a record \$167 million in construction projects across Kentucky. District 10 received \$8.1 million worth of these contracts. The biggest project is a \$3.7 million rockfall mitigation project on KY 52 in Lee County. Also included is a \$1.1 million bridge replacement on KY 1471 in Magoffin County, guardrail installation on KY 52 in Estill County, asphalt resurfacing of 56.3 miles in six counties and asphalt patching of 10 miles in Breathitt County. Subsequent contract lettings in July and August also contained a number of District 10 improvement projects.

In addition, in June a total of more than \$4.8 million was released for preconstruction work on five District 10 projects. The largest chunk, \$2.5 million, is allocated for right of way acquisition for a relocation of KY 89 in Estill County. Other projects include design work for reconstruction of Exit 56 on the Hal Rogers Parkway in Perry County, design work for relocation



The landscape changes almost daily as construction progresses on the four-lane relocation of KY 15 near Vancleve in Breathitt County.

of the KY 715 Wolfe County portion of the proposed London-to-Ashland corridor, utility relocation and right of way acquisition for relocation of US 460 in Morgan County, and right of way acquisition for a rockfall mitigation project on KY 1274 in Menifee County.

Construction is progressing at a rapid rate on projects such as the KY 7 relocation in Morgan County, the KY 15 four-laning in Breathitt County, and the realignment of the KY 15-KY 30 intersection in Breathitt County.

Funding has also been obtained for smaller projects, such as the installation of center turn lanes on KY 52 in West Irvine and KY 11 in Beattyville. A number of other resurfacing and maintenance projects have been completed or are underway, including bridge deck restoration on KY 15 in Perry County and Powell County, and resurfacing of KY 11 in Wolfe County.

The Transportation Cabinet's work is too important for distractions to take away from our duties. Our charge is to continue to provide the best and safest highways possible, and we will continue to do so.



In July, a center turn lane was added to a congested section of KY 11 in Beattyville.

Transportation Enhancement grant presented to officials in Hazard

On July 11, Cory Meadows, executive director of the Transportation Enhancement Program, represented Gov. Ernie Fletcher and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and awarded a Transportation Enhancement grant to officials in Hazard.

The grant is for a Downtown Renaissance Streetscape project in Hazard.

“By awarding these funds to the City of Hazard, we are fulfilling the Fletcher administration’s primary mission which is to improve economic development and the quality of life for the citizens of the Commonwealth,” said Bill Nighbert, acting Transportation secretary.

A \$141,524 grant will help fund the construction of a sidewalk along East Main Street near the site of a proposed new bridge across the North Fork of the Kentucky River and making other improvements in the area, as well as assist in implementing crosswalk improvements and upgrading parking signage throughout downtown.

“I want to recognize and give special thanks to the local officials in Hazard, especially Mayor Bill Gorman, for their dedication and commitment to this project. There is no question that these preservation projects help the program’s goal of strengthening the cultural and aesthetic

aspects of Kentucky’s intermodal transportation system,” said Cory Meadows, executive director of the Transportation Enhancement Program.

The Transportation Enhancement program was created by federal legislation known as in 1991 to offer states funding opportunities to expand transportation choices and increase recreational access. Communities may also use TE funds to contribute toward the revitalization of local and regional economies by restoring historic buildings, renovating streetscapes or providing transportation museums and visitors centers.



Officials including Perry County Judge-Executive Denny Ray Noble, left, and Hazard Mayor William Gorman, second from left, accepted the grant check from Cory Meadows, center..



Meadows discussed the Transportation Enhancement program.



Mayor Gorman named Meadows a “Duke of Hazard” and presented him a citation to that effect, as well as a key to the city.

KYTC, Department of Parks team up to promote 'Drive Smart' initiative



Present at the unveiling of the Drive Smart sign at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park on Thursday, Aug. 18 were: from left, Roy Mundy, Commissioner of the Department of Vehicle Regulation; Judy Cook, Manager of Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park; Veda Wooton, Mayor of Buckhorn; Sonia Sanders, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Vehicle Regulation; and John Paul, Assistant Director of the Department of Parks for the Eastern Region.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Kentucky Department of Parks are promoting driver safety. A new "Drive Smart" sign is now installed at the exit of Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park.

"The new signs are a great advocate for driver safety across the state of Kentucky," said Dan Barnett, director of Kentucky's Drive Smart program. "We want to reach out to park visitors and remind them to be safe and to drive smart when returning home from their visit at one of our beautiful state parks."

The signs include the Kentucky State Parks logo, the Drive Smart logo and the Kentucky Unbridled Spirit brand. There will be 50 of the new signs put up in Kentucky's State Parks.

"This is an extremely busy time of year for our state parks," said Parks Commissioner George Ward. "Hopefully, these new signs will remind our visitors how important it is to drive smart. We want to see them back at one of our wonderful resorts next year."

All of the signs are expected to be installed at Kentucky State Parks by Labor Day weekend. Nearly eight million people visit Kentucky State Parks each year. The ceremony for Natural Bridge State Resort Park was scheduled for late August.

'Back To School' time in District 10



Bonnie Dunahoo, left photo, and H.B. Elkins and Ron Easter, right photo, represented KYTC and Drive Smart at the annual Readifest at Beattyville Elementary School on July 29. They handed out crayons, coloring books, litter bags, pencils, tourist and travel information and other materials to more than 600 Lee County school-age children and their families.

Calendar of Events

- **Monday, Sept. 5 — Labor Day (state offices closed)**
- **Sunday, Sept. 11 — Patriot Day**
- **Thursday, Sept. 22 — First Day of Autumn**
- **Monday, Oct. 10 — Columbus Day**
- **Sunday, Oct. 16 — National Boss Day**
- **Sunday, Oct. 30 — Daylight Saving Time Ends**
- **Monday, Oct. 31 — Halloween**



In May, Chief District Engineer Linda Wagner-Justice changed the plaque on the memorial to those killed in traffic accidents at the Slade rest area to reflect the numbers for 2004. Ceremonies were held across the state to memorialize victims of fatal traffic accidents last year.

A NEWSLETTER FOR KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET DISTRICT 10
EMPLOYEES

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In July, signs informing motorists of Kentucky's new "Move Over" law were erected across the state, including this one on KY 80 in Perry County. District 10 also got a similar sign on the Mountain Parkway in Wolfe County.